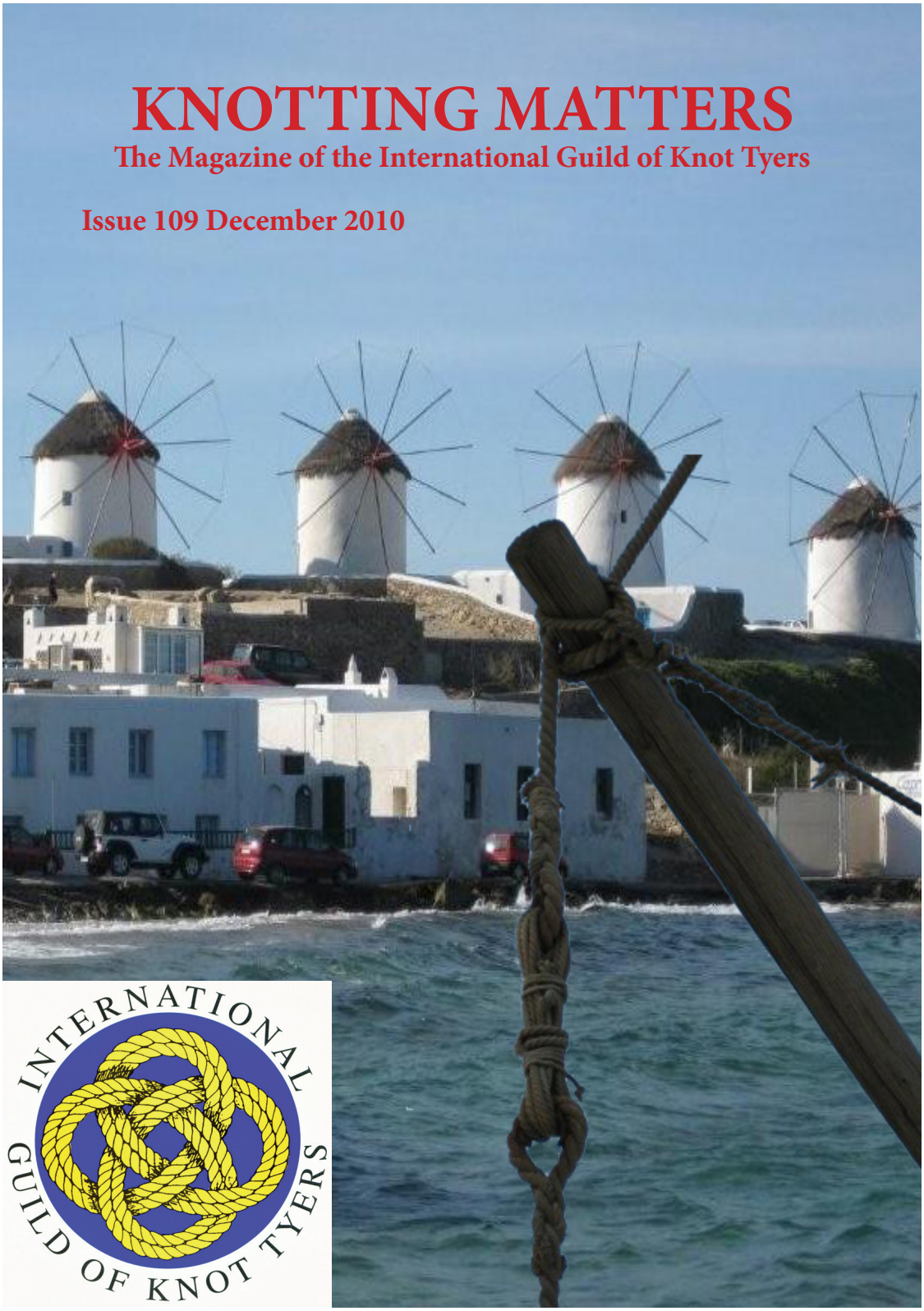
KNOTTING MATTERS

The Magazine of the International Guild of Knot Tyers

Issue 109 December 2010



Photocopy this page and then write your order needs on it.

IGKT Sales Order Form

E-mail your order as below or send to
IGKT Supplies Secretary,
Oaken Cleave, Cobbaton, UMBERLEIGH
EX37 9SG UK
Telephone 01769 540 626

Books	Author	£ each	Number	Sub Total
Decorative Woven Flat Knots (incl CD)	Skip Pennock	12.50		
Knotcraft	Stuart Grainger	4.00		
Knotlore 2	Geoffrey Budworth	2.50		
Knot Rhymes and Reasons	Geoffrey Budworth	1.50		
Knots for the Cut (*a "Cut" is a canal in the UK*)	Ben Selfe	12.50		
Knotted Fabrics	Stuart Grainger	9.00		
Knotting Matters Magazine (back issues)	Various	2.50		
Nylon Novelties	Eric Franklin	2.00		
Plaited Moebius Bands	Geoffrey Budworth	2.50		
Ropefolk	Stuart Grainger	1.30		
Single Strand Cruciform Turks Heads	Harold Scott	4.00		
The DIY Book of Fenders	Colin Jones	9.95		
The Knot Scene	Geoffrey Budworth	2.00		
Turkshead the Traditional Way	Eric Franklin	1.50		
Other Items				
Cloth Badge – new stock has arrived - excellent value at this price!		2.00		
Car Sticker		1.00		
Certificate of Membership (plastic laminated) post free		2.50		
Ditty Bag (natural canvas) – 9" high x 6.5" across base. W/out cord		7.50		
Enamel Brooch		2.00		
IGKT Rubber Stamp		4.00		
IGKT Tie		9.95		
Knot Board Poster A2 £3 each or 4 for £10 (price reduced) A4 laminated version also available at only £1.50 each 4 for £5.00				
Postage & packing*				
Total Amount Due				

*Please e-mail **supplies@igkt.net** with your order stating to which country the items are to be sent . **We will e-mail a payment request to you (incl postage & packing) so that you can make secure payment by PayPal online using any card.** If you do not have email access you can complete the details below and send by post but **at your own risk.** If you wish p&p can be added and charged to your card automatically.

Payment can be made by: Cheque drawn on a UK Bank/ Credit Card*/Debit Card (delete as appropriate)

Name (as on card if used) .....

Address .....

.....

.....Post/Zip Code .....

Card No | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Start date (MMYY) | | | | | End date (MMYY) | | | | | Security Code | | | | Last 3 digits on reverse of card

Signature ..... Date.....

***We cannot accept American Express cards on this form but if you have an Amex card then this can be used via PayPal**

Supplies Secretary – Colin Byfleet
Oaken Cleave, Cobbaton, Umberleigh, EX37 9SG, UK

Knot Charts
Full set of 100 charts - £10.00
Individual charts - £0.20

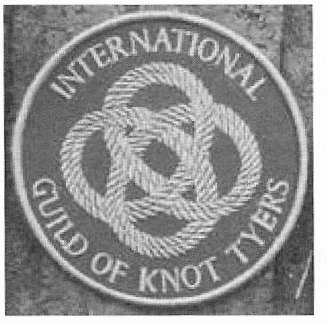
Knotting Matters
Some past editions available
Contact the Secretary for details

Rubber Stamp
IGKT Member, with logo
(excludes ink stamp pad) £4.00

Certificate of Membership
Parchment membership scroll,
Signed by the President and Hon. Sec., for mounting or hanging
£2.50

Guild Tie
Long, dark blue with Guild logo in gold - £9.95

Badges – all with Guild Logo
Blazer badge - £2.00
Enamel brooch - £2.00
Windscreen sticker - £1.00



Payment may be made either through cheques payable to IGKT, pay through PayPal or simply send your credit card details
PS Don't forget to allow for postage

Front cover: A view of windmills on the island of Mykonos, Greece, overlaid with a detail of the end of one of the spars by Ken Yalden

Index:

5 Letters to The Editor
9 A new Dimension in Turk's Head Knots by Jim Wolf
11 Notice of Annual General Meeting
12 A Letter from Our President
13 Notes from the Mousepad
14 A Pineapple Knot Tutorial by John Richings
20 Photographs from Karlskrona
24 Report on Karlskrona meeting by our UK Stringer
26 Rigging Grommets as Nets by Alf Mumberson
27 The Great British Knot Experiment as re-told by Richard Hopkins
30 Setting up Shows by Ken Yalden
33 Photographs from Jim Wolf's Turk's Head(s)
37 How I Did It - Bird Feeder by Theo Slijkerman
39 How I Did It - Diamond Knot Variations by John Heselton
41 From the Editor's Blotter
42 AGM 2011 Information
43 Branch reports
47 Diary and Branch Contacts

Catalog Information
Issue 109 - December 2010

Except as otherwise indicated, copyright in Knotting Matters is reserved to the International Guild of Knot Tyers, IGKT 2010. Copyright of members' articles published in Knotting matters is reserved to the authors and permission to reprint should be sought from the suthor and from the editor. All sources of quotations printed in Knotting Matters are hereby acknowledged.

ADVERTISING RATES (Pounds Sterling)

	Members	Non-members
Full page	50	70
Half Page	25	35
Quarter Page	15	20
Full (colour)	140	170

EDITOR
Lindsey Philpott
e-mail: knotting matters@igkt.net
HON. SEC.
Barry Mault
Tel: +1144 (0)151 678 3629
e-mail: barry@lizziemint.co.uk
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY
Bruce Turley
Tel: 0121 453 4124
e-mail: bruce.turley@blueyonder.co.uk
PRESIDENT
Dan Machowski
Tel: 1-843/795-9240
e-mail: president@igkt.net

GUILD POSTAL ADDRESS
for all correspondence
Hon Sec, IGKT
144 Millhouse Lane
Wirral, CH46 6DT, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES (Pounds Sterling)

Juniors - under 18	Free
Adullts 1-year	23
Adults 5-year	100
Families 1-year	27
Families 5-year	115
Group	10
Corporate	By arrangement

The International Guild of Knot Tyers (IGKT) is a registered charity No. 802153

PRINTED BY GIPPING PRESS Ltd
Needham Market
Tel: 01449 721599
Fax: 01499 721372

ISSN 0959-2881

Letters to The Editor
The Things You Say!!

Dear Lindsey,

When I lived and worked in Fiji, a yacht from New Zealand visited the Royal Suva Yacht Club (circa 1992). A Deckhand, aged about twenty, tied a loop in the end of a rope and passed it to me to place over a bollard. Later, in the bar, I informed him that I had never seen this knot before and so he taught me how to tie it. I am not aware that he ever gave it a name, and although I do not tie it habitually, I do tie it occasionally, and have called it a 'New Zealand' or 'Kiwi' Bowline. Seeing it for the first time in print in Issue 108 and called the 'Daniel Harness Loop' I am wondering if my teacher of this knot was taught it by Roger Carter or his friend? Since it appears to be almost mandatory that a good knot must have more than one name, may I add my support to it becoming a recognised knot.

Regards Terry Meaden.

Hello Lindsey,

Many thanks for Bernards article and his photo on the front page .K.M 108. Bernard was highly delighted. Once again, thank you

REF John Heselton on Bowlines
see K.M 42 1993 page 11-12-13
by Owen K Nuttall.

all the best
Owen.

Dear Editor re: Knots in the Wild.

In September 2009 I was on a cruise in the Mediterranean and, like many of you, I keep my eyes open for knots in the wild. On this occasion I found them on the Greek island of Mykonos and they were on traditional Greek windmills.

[Take a look at the detail on the front cover for the end of one of the spars - Ed]

Note that a line is passed around the outside circumference of the spars, similar to a swifter on a capstan; each windmill has a central bowsprit (my word) to take the strain from the spars. From where I was standing (I did say wild) the line looked like 3 strand weathered nylon, but it was too high up to get a rope gage on it, and my guess is that it was about 2 ½ inch circumference (2.0 cm dia.). When the sails are rigged they are triangular and fit between the spars. Sorry no pictures of that, you will have to send us back for more photographs the next time they are rigged.
Please note I include a picture of the Miller's Cat on its mat to keep the right side of Lindsey [***Good idea! See below - Ed***].

Ken Yalden.

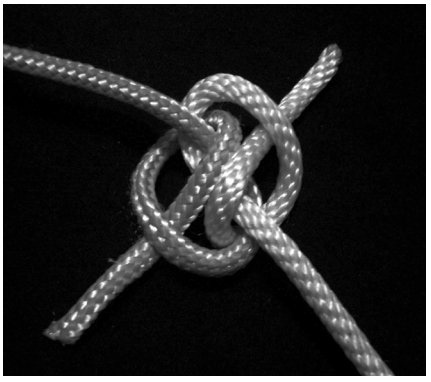
Dear Editor

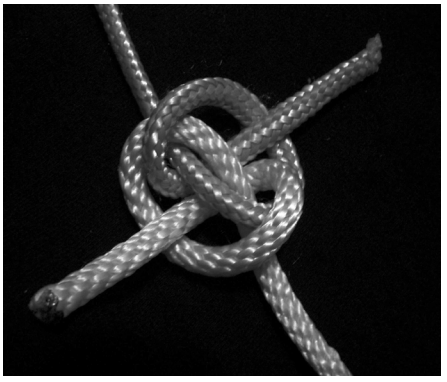
It was nice to see the article on Bernard in the recent KM. I was lucky enough to meet him at the Nottingham AGM and then picked up a small knot board made by him in the raffle. That is now one of my prized possessions. I am writing regards a remark in the article that the Dahlia Knot was shown in KM101, that sent me rushing to look at that issue and I cannot find anything on the Dahlia, I might well at my age be going mad. What I really want to know is - has the construction of this beautiful knot ever been published in KM or any other form. If so do we know what issue? If it has not, is there anyone who could do an article on it, as it is a very nice looking knot and should have a prominent place in the world of decorative knots.
[***Ed's note - it appears on pages 276 - 282 in my latest book - shameless plug!***]
Yours
Pete James

PS I found near issue 101 the article on the Rose Knot, I am now thinking of taking up armchair gardening LOL

[***The Dahlia Knot was indeed printed previously in KM and your editor erroneously stated that it had been in issue 101 - my bad! It appeared following the May 1993 AGM in Birmingham and was illustrated by Stuart Grainger in September of that same year - Ed***]

Greetings.
Can you help me? Is this a new knot? It is tied in a similar fashion to the Hunter's Bend. The standing parts are very nearly exactly opposed, so that they may appear as a single line passing through two turns, especially when under load. The ends emerge at 90 degrees to the bend itself. Thanks for your inspection. Came across it some months ago while experimenting.
Don Lindsley, 351 Grouse Dr., Galt, CA 95632





Hi Lindsey

With reference to your request for info on early patent rope machines (page 4, current Knotting Matters) there's a relevant article by moi in KM 85 (December 2004), pages 16 - 21. After more research results surfaced, I do have an updated version of the article in my computer documents which I could send on to you. I also have copies of the patent drawings submitted to the London Patent Office in April 1793 "Somewhere" around my house; failed to find them after a quick cursory search.

The three rope drums in the Sunderland patent rope machine were vertically aligned as apposed to the patent drawing's horizontal alignment on page 4 of the current KM. Have you any patent dates on this one? Your eyesight must be good -- after reading your email it took a combination of two magnifying glasses to make out the left/S lay of the rope strands in the drawing on page four of the latest KM. Yes, that is an error in the drawing. The three strands should be forming a right/Z laid rope. I also note that a heart is feeding into the three strand rope. To maintain maximum strength, each progression in the rope's construction must alternate. The fibres in the rope yarn are laid up right-handed, the rope yarns forming the strand are left/S laid and the three strands forming the rope are right/Z laid. If one follows on, the next progression is a left lay to form a cable laid rope.

When constructing a right-laid equivalent of a cable-laid rope the complete progression has to be altered. Left-laid rope yarn, right-laid strands, left-laid rope, right-laid cable equivalent. One can understand why this method wasn't particularly popular. Ninety-nine per cent of rope was made and stock-piled in the right-left-right progression, as in the previous paragraph. The right-laid larger circumference rope's most common useage was in towing springs, quite a common practise from around 1900 to the 1960s, often in combination with wire, half rope half wire. Rope at the ship end and a large wire eye at the tug end. Again,both right laid for maximum strength. One of the only ropes that I came across that didn't follow this alternate construction procedure was the rope used on lifeboat falls. The first two progressions, the individual rope yarn and construction of the following strand, were each laid up left-handed and then right-laid to form the rope. This was reckoned to reduce the tendency of the rope to kink when the ropes traversed through multiple blocks, specially when retrieving boats from the water.

Over many years Lindsey, I've often noticed when viewing paintings containing a rope type lay, if the object is leading one way and is then seen to be returning in the opposite direction, the artist, on occasion, paints the diagonals (lay) in two different directions. For me, it always raises a little smile, but the strange thing is, it seems so plausible, and I can never take exception with the artist. Last but not least, I would like to congratulate you on the deft reproduction of my Mauretania article in Knotting Matters 107. All's well and your lights are bright,

Thomas Simpson - in sunny South Shields.

A New Dimension in Turk's Heads

(The first Scout to use the knot is grandson of article author Jim Wolf, Shawn Witchey, pictured below with 'Siamese' TH woggle)

The goal of this article is to share with fellow members a new concept in Turks Head Knots as well as to document how it was developed.

Before retiring from the US Navy, my lovely wife Cindy and I were fortunate enough to be posted to Royal Navy Air Station Yeovilton (HMS Heron). With only approximately ten Americans posted to RNAS Yeovilton, we soon found ourselves living amongst hard working people that really enjoyed life. Rolling hills, that were golden with rapeseed flowers, and green pastures surrounded the area. We soon learnt to enjoy real ale, cider, mature cheddar cheese and Branston pickle.

It wasn't long before we started making trips to Almondsbury to attend meetings with the West Country Knotters (WCK). This was a wonderful experience. Our new friends welcomed us into their group. Through these meetings, as with other IGKT meetings, we have forged life-long friendships.

Before attending a WCK meeting in July of 2006, I was asked by my father, Jim Wolf from Indiana, to pose a question to the group on his behalf. Dad asked whether any members knew if it was possible to tie a double Turks Head (TH), that is side-by-side in a figure eight form, from a single cord. The members thought it was an interesting challenge and agreed to ponder it.

The idea behind attempting the knot came from Dad's Scouting background. He often tied THs to use as neckerchief slides (or woggles depending on which side of the Atlantic you happen to reside) but wanted to research and possibly develop this new concept in THs. Dad felt that, since it is rare for a new knot to be developed, he would first ask within the knotting community as to whether it has already been done. The feedback to this point was that there was interest in seeing the finished idea but nobody had seen this sort of TH before.

Europa Chang-Dawson made a valiant attempt using scoubidou material. Europa presented her knots to my dad at my retirement ceremony held at RNAS Yeovilton in May of 2007. While Europa's knots were in the desired form they didn't follow the figure eight idea for each pass from one TH to the other.

Over the next several weeks, many attempts to convert the idea to a reality were made by Dad, Tony Place of Pennsylvania and me. In the end we agreed that the easiest way to accomplish the task would be to tie TWO separate THs and then join them using a third cord we called a "Mule" and then remove the two original cords leaving one knot. Once this was agreed upon it was less than a week before I received the email from Indiana that exclaimed, "I got it".

Unfortunately, I was not able to share the knot with the West Country Knotters, as Cindy and I went back to the U.S. only two weeks before the 25th anniversary of the IGKT meeting in Fareham, England.

It was another two years before much else happened regarding this TH variation. I took the original knot, that was tied on two dowels, to the IGKT half-yearly meeting in New Bedford, Massachusetts, USA. Proud of Dad's accomplishment I wanted to share it with the community and to again see if anyone had seen this variation before. I felt that Des Pawson best described it as a sort of Siamese TH.

After returning from the half-yearly meeting, interest was again kindled and I began trying to copy the knot as was tied. Dad shared his idea with Tony Place of Pennsylvania, USA who used the same method of tying two separate THs then joining them. Tony produced an expanded version done with leather. Tony sent his knot to me in time for me to take it and the original knot to the IGKT AGM in Weston Super Mare where the concept received attention from many knotters.

Upon return to Florida, and through careful study of the original knot, I have documented (using photographs) how to tie the original knot on one hand. This method is much less time consuming than the way the original knot was developed.

Indiana Jim Wolf has expressed that the concept of expanding THs into this new dimension is limited only by the imagination. "There is no reason why the single TH, now Siamesed, cannot be expanded to three, four, five or more segments. The question now is how to classify or name a TH that has multiple segments." Whilst "Siamese" may be descriptive of a TH with two segments, it doesn't necessarily describe this new dimension of THs well. The author hopes that the Guild and its members can come up with a suitable name for the new dimension in Turk's Head knots.

[***Any takers? Send us a letter or send Jim a letter. Photographs of Jim's new TH knot type are on pages 33 - 36 in this issue - Ed***]

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

This constitutes formal notice that the AGM in 2011 will take place in Coventry on Saturday 7 May 2011 at the Rough Close Scout Campsite & Activity Centre, Tanners Lane, Berkswell, Nr Coventry, CV7 7DD.

The Council have decided that the Guild AGM in 2013 will take place in the USA - a venue has not yet been decided - to reflect the fact that we have almost as many members in the USA as in the UK. Thereafter we plan to alternate between the UK and the USA. For 2012 we are looking for a UK venue which must have good transport links and should be readily accessible to all UK and overseas members.

A Letter From Our President

My Fellow Knottyers

It probably comes as no surprise to any member of the Guild, who has taught at an event or demonstration, that it is a great feeling to have a young person demonstrate great pride and intense effort in learning the art that is our passion, once they have been shown the correct techniques. A recent chapter took place in my life, at an unplanned event with some high school sailors, which led me to believe that these unprompted moments can truly turn into one of the best times of interaction with our youth.

Sailing, being one of my leisure activities, has me involved with coaching a high school team and luckily with much help. Sailing is done in either the 420 or Flying Junior classes. In their simplicity of design, it only takes one knot to rig and sail either of these two-man dinghies, the Figure of Eight knot. The mainsail halyard uses a Figure of Eight feed thru a bight in the sail head stock and the jib and main sheets use it as stopper knots. The two halyards are then belayed with the locking form of the figure eight turns around the horns. This has in many ways made teaching further knots to the team as a whole a losing task at times, given the quick lifestyle of some of today's teenagers.

At a recent regatta, a group of sailors were socializing ashore, while their teammates were sailing their division. A piece of line was brought out and another version of competition quickly developed on the dock, as might be expected. It was not long before I was drawn into the mix, first as a judge of their tied knots and then as a teacher for new ones. With only a few minutes to intermingle with them before they were to cast off for their race, the seed of desire could be seen to be well planted, for what developed for the rest of the day was an almost continuous series of interruptions for advice on knots. What more could a knot tyer ask for? Now I just need to keep a couple hundred feet of 3 mm line on hand all the time for Turks Heads bracelets and Monkey Fists.

For all the Guild members in the Northern Hemisphere, we are at that time where we begin our winter retreat inside and wonder how the outdoor activities in the Southern half of our International family are faring. To each his turn, as they say. Remember; please keep the Guild informed of all activities and events. But more importantly, keep in touch and help grow our organization in numbers, knowledge and friendship. The link that binds us is more than a strand of knotted line.

We also, once again, approach the time of year for worldwide celebration, cheer and wonderment. Looking back through past KMs, I am drawn to the many decorations for the seasons that our members have had published and wonder at what pieces are being crafted.

To everyone, from me and the entire Executive Committee, may you and all of your families have a Blessed Holiday and Happy New Year!

Smooth turns Dan

Notes from the Mousepad

I am pleased to say that I am now recovered from major surgery and back "at work" as Hon Sec. My thanks to all who sent cards and goodwill messages while I was in hospital and also my thanks to the superb medical team at the Royal Liverpool Hospital, without whose expertise I would not be writing this.

Those of you who glance at our website or the Forum will no doubt have seen that the Council have decided, using powers conferred by the Rule changes last year, to offer free membership to those under 18 (not 16) and to youth groups. The offer to young people individually is time limited (it will be reviewed at the end of April 2011 but could be withdrawn before then if it appears to be abused). Please do all you can to bring this to the attention of groups in your area (we will be writing centrally to as many organisations as we can find, but we are then dependant on them cascading the message to their members).

We are also offering a 5 year membership rate to adults and family members (£100 and £115 respectively). Not only is this at a discount, but you will be protected against any fee rises over the 5 years. You can pay via PayPal on our website (see under "Membership") or by cheque drawn on a UK bank and sent to Bruce Turley, our Membership Secretary.

A separate announcement is in this issue about the AGM next year and in future years. Enclosed with this KM is a letter from me and a "Membership Update" form for members to complete. Please take a few minutes to read the letter and either complete and return the paper form or complete the online version as explained in the letter (completing it online will save you the postage). I am not going to repeat the letter here but it is very important that we get our membership records up to date and accurate – particularly e-mail addresses.

Finally we have a diary of events on the website and although this will continue there is also a Google diary available which can not only hold details of events such as when the Council is meeting, but also any other local events which you might like added – a map showing the event location is automatically available. This diary has been there for a while unused, as my illness interrupted its development, but it is now up and running - so drop me an e-mail (secretary@igkt.net) if you would like anything added - I will look at giving regular contributors access to enter their own events (as Council members should already be able to do) if there is a demand.

A Pineapple Knot Tutorial

by (John Richings)

A Rainbow Pineapple Knot
Type 1, 8 Pass 42p48b (7p6b base Turk's Head)
A tutorial for a novice by a novice

Materials:
(a) 8 plait nylon "chalk line" approx 1.5mm dia, dyed using Jacquard Acid dies
1.Jet black (639) – Base TH
2. Scarlet (609)
3. Pumpkin Orange (605)
4. Yellow Sun (601)
5. Emerald (629)
6. Royal Blue (625)
7. Navy Blue (626)
8. Violet (614)

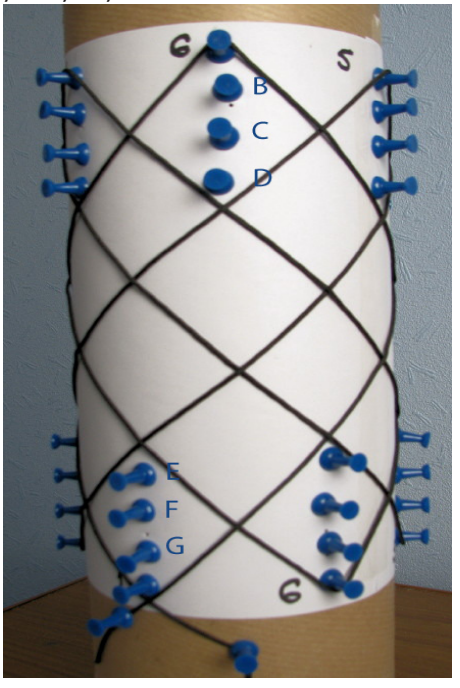
(b) Starter Mandrel: 100mm (4") dia cardboard post tube & map pins
Final mount: Wooden elliptical bead 40mm x 25mm, although a 25mm ball may have been big enough !
Phase 1 :
(a) Tie 7p6b base TH (I used Tim Allwine's super software)
(b) Insert 6 additional rows of pins:
Pins D and G – Violet and Navy Blue
Pins C and F - Blue, Green and Yellow
Pins B and E - Orange and Scarlet
(c) Because we'll finish with 16 ends I'll spread the "starts" to different bottom pins:
Pin 1 – Base Th
Pin 2 - Violet and Navy Blue
Pin 3 - Blue
Pin 4 - Green
Pin 5 - Yellow and Orange
Pin 6 - Scarlet

Adding the passes
An * indicates the strand you are using is "meeting itself" and you'll be 'splitting the pair'. In the sequence of 'overs' or 'unders' I've included the pin to put the bight over.

2nd String – Violet (Use pins D and G). Start at Bottom pin 2
U2,O1,U1,O1,U1, Pin D, U1,O1,U1,O1,U1, Pin G
U1,O1,U1,O1,U1, Pin D, U2*,O1,U1,O1,U1, Pin G
U2*,O1,U1,O1,U1, Pin D, U2*,O2*,U1,O1,U1, Pin G
U2*,O2*,U1,O1,U1, Pin D, U2*,O2*,U1,O1,U1, Pin G
U2*,O2*,U2*,O1,U1, Pin D, U2*,O2*,U2*,O2*,U1, Pin G
U2*,O2*,U2*,O2*,U1, Pin D, U2*,O2*,U2*,O2*,U1, Pin G

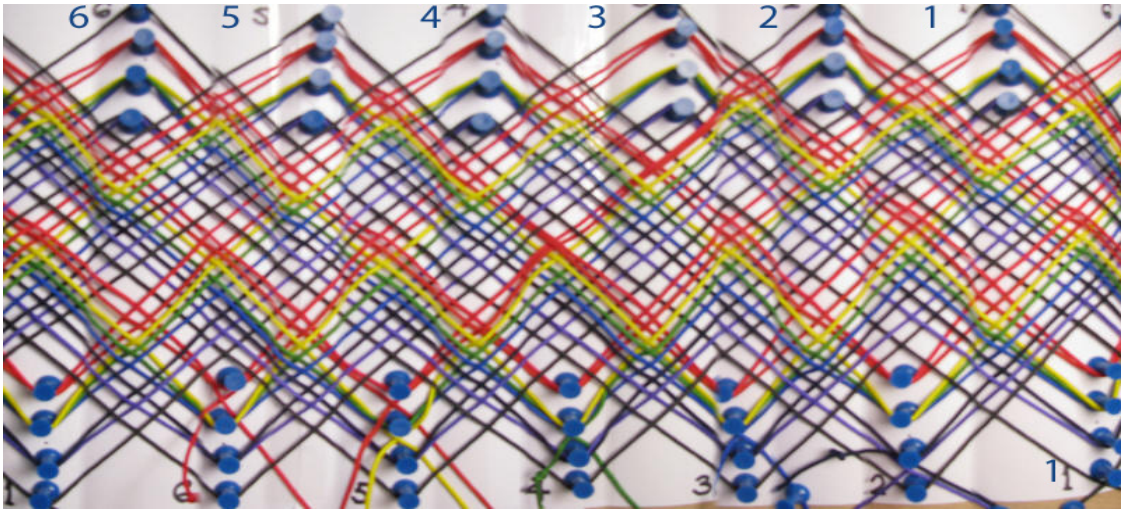
3rd String – Navy Blue (Use Pins D and G). Start at Bottom pin 2
U4,O2,U2,O2,U1, Pin D, U1,O2,U2,O2,U2, Pin G
U2,O2,U2,O2,U1, Pin D, U2*,O2,U2,O2,U2, Pin G
U3*,O2,U2,O2,U1, Pin D, U2*,O3*,U2,O2,U2, Pin G
U3*,O3*,U2,O2,U1, Pin D, U2*,O3*,U3*, O2,U2, Pin G
U3*,O3*,U3*,O2,U1, Pin D, U2*,O3*,U3*,O3*,U2, Pin G
U3*,O3*,U3*,O3*,U1, Pin D, U2*,O3*,U3*,O3*,U2, Pin G

Green : Basic Turk's Head
Pink : 2nd Pass
Blue : 3rd Pass
These 3 colours are only used for this diagram [page 18]. Using the black, violet and navy blue wouldn't be clear enough. Once you've completed the 3rd String, use the above [p 18] diagram to compare with your mandrel that you've interpreted the instructions correctly. If necessary correct any errors now.



4th String – Blue (Use Pins C and F). Start at Bottom Pin 3
U6,O3,U3,O3,U1, Pin C, U1,O3,U3,O3,U3, Pin F
U3,O3,U3,O3,U1, Pin C, U2*,O3,U3,O3,U3, Pin F
U4*,O3,U3,O3,U1, Pin C, U2*,O4*,U3,O3,U3, Pin F
U4*,O4*,U3,O3,U1, Pin C, U2*,O4*,U4*,O3,U3, Pin F
U4*,O4*,U4*,O3,U1, Pin C, U2*,O4*,U4*,O4*,U3, Pin F
U4*,O4*,U4*,O4*,U1, Pin C, U2*,O4*,U4*,O4*,U3, Pin F
5th String – Green (Use Pins C and F). Start at Bottom Pin 4
U8,O4,U4,O4,U1, Pin C, U1,O4,U4,O4,U4, Pin F
U4,O4,U4,O4,U1, Pin C, U2*,O4,U4,O4,U4, Pin F
U5*,O4,U4,O4,U1, Pin C, U2*,O5*,U4,O4,U4, Pin F
U5*,O5*,U4,O4,U1, Pin C, U2*,O5*,U5*,O4,U4, Pin F
U5*,O5*,U5*,O4,U1, Pin C, U2*,O5*,U5*,O5*,U4, Pin F
U5*,O5*,U5*,O5*,U1, Pin C, U2*,O5*,U5*,O5*,U4, Pin F
6th String – Yellow (Use Pins C and F). Start at Bottom Pin 5
U10,O5,U5,O5,U1, Pin C, U1,O5,U5,O5,U5, Pin F
U5,O5,U5,O5,U1, Pin C, U2*,O5,U5,O5,U5, Pin F
U6*,O5,U5,O5,U1, Pin C, U2*, O6*,U5,O5,U5, Pin F
U6*,O6*,U5,O5,U1, Pin C, U2*,O6*,U6*,O5,U5, Pin F
U6*,O6*,U6*,O5,U1, Pin C, U2*,O6*,U6*,O6*,U5, Pin F
U6*,O6*,U6*,O6*,U1, Pin C, U2*,O6*,U6*,O6*U5, Pin F
7th String – Orange (Use Pins B and E). Start at Bottom Pin 5
U12,O6,U6,O6,U1, Pin B, U1,O6,U6,O6,U6, Pin E
U6,O6,U6,O6,U1, Pin B, U2*,O6,U6,O6,U6, Pin E
U7*,O6,U6,O6,U1, Pin B, U2*,O7*,U6,O6,U6, Pin E
U7*,O7*,U6,O6,U1, Pin B, U2*,O7*,U7*,O6,U6, Pin E
U7*,O7*,U7*,O6,U1, Pin B, U2*,O7*,U7*,O7*,U6, Pin E
U7*,O7*,U7*,O7*,U1, Pin B, U2*,O7*,U7*,O7*,U6, Pin E
8th String – Red (Use Pins B and E). Start at Bottom Pin 6
U14,O7,U7,O7,U1, Pin B, U1,O7,U7,O7,U7, Pin E
U7,O7,U7,O7,U1, Pin B, U2*,O7,U7,O7,U7, Pin E
U8*,O7,U7,O7,U1, Pin B, U2*,O8*,U7,O7,U7, Pin E
U8*,O8*,U7,O7,U1, Pin B, U2*,O8*,U8*,O7,U7, Pin E
U8*,O8*,U8*,O7,U1, Pin B, U2*,O8*,U8*,O8*,U7, Pin E
U8*,O8*,U8*,O8*,U1, Pin B, U2*,O8*,U8*,O8*,U7, Pin E

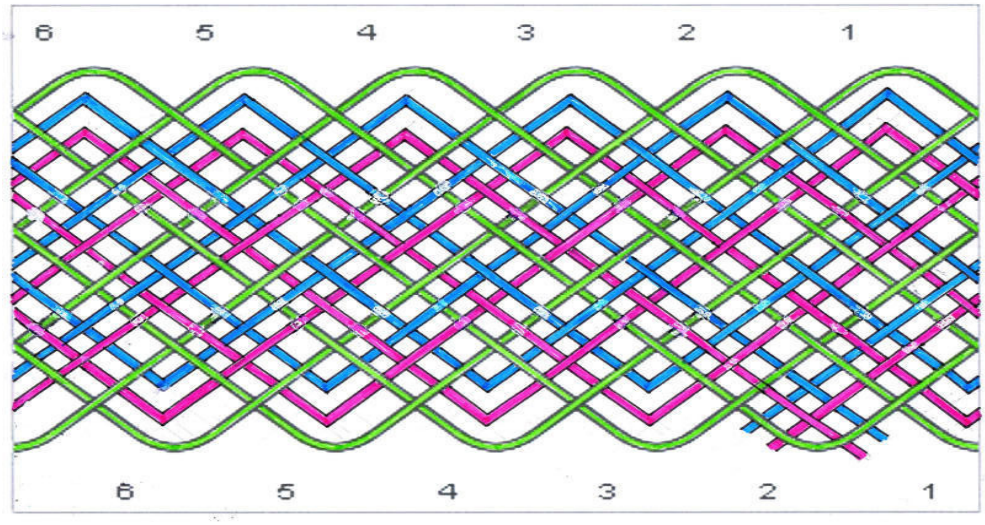
A panoramic photograph of the completed 8 strings :



Phase 2 – Reducing the work down to final size
To keep the strings in their correct positions relative to each other :
Carefully remove ONLY Row D pins
First the VIOLET thread put an overhand knot about 2" from the running end.
Now take out the slack, also taking out any surplus from the running end, working it back towards the standing end.
Now do the NAVY BLUE thread
Carefully remove ONLY Row E pins
Work out the slack from the RED thread then the ORANGE thread.
Carefully remove ONLY Row C pins
Work out slack from the BLUE, then GREEN then YELLOW threads
Carefully remove ONLY Row F pins
Work out slack from the YELLOW then GREEN then BLUE threads
Carefully remove ONLY Row B pins
Work out slack from ORANGE then RED threads
Carefully remove Row G pins
Work out slack from NAVY BLUE then VIOLET threads
At this time I didn't take out any slack from the Base Turks Head
Have your next downsize mandrel ready – it could be a smaller post tube, a bottle (empty) or even a drinks can.

This is a picture [R] after further tidying up but showing elastic bands holding the Base TH without interfering with work on the other strings. The picture on the next page opposite is the first view of the work on a smaller mandrel……..DON'T PANIC ! Find the knotted end of the VIOLET thread and gently take out some of the slack. Follow this by the NAVY BLUE being aware that it lies alongside the Violet thread. Do this for all the threads in their correct sequence.

Finally you can take some slack out of the Base TH
DON'T overtighten at this stage, and threads may need some nudging to position. This particular PK would suit a 1" dia bar as the final mount ….or even a bead. Finally there are 16 ends to dispose of. Cutting them within say ½" and tucking the ends under the knot seems obvious……but I'd certainly welcome advice on this ….and on my whole approach to making this knot.

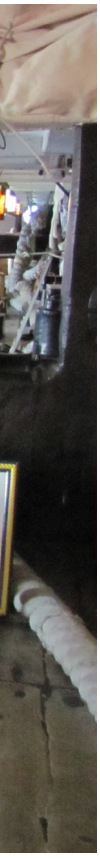


Just a brief note on [making] the panorama photo :

Stand the mandrel on the work table, making sure table is level and the mandrel is cut square to the vertical.
I stuck a piece of paper on the table and drew around the mandrel.
Most digital cameras have panorama settings these days. I set the camera on a tripod using 'Closeup' in daylight. I took 12 shots moving the mandrel around within the drawn circle. 12 shots gave good overlap…… I cropped each of the pictures then used "Arcsoft Panorama" to stitch them together. You've got this far ? Then good for you and '***Diolch yn fawr'*** – Welsh language for 'Thank you'
FINIS

Above: The gun deck for displays
Left: A section of the ropewalk
Below: The six-knot challenge!

See page 24 - 25 for report



lisplays
walk
nge!

Dear KM Editor and IGKT Librarian:

I queried Geoffrey Budworth about this [question], but he indicated he was no longer "involved on the knot scene" due to age and health issues. I'd enjoyed the (fairly recent) conversation sparked by his "Quibble" in KM, so his reply was sad news...Perhaps you can help with either of these:

1: I am interested in correctly citing the profile of Ashley in KM11, pp. 6-7. Several of the other Knotsman profiles were "By the Editor", which, at the time, was G.B. However the profile of Ashley has no byline, but does have "from Stuart E. Grainger" immediately below it. This appears to me to be referring to the verse at the bottom of page seven (7). Do you believe it correct to cite Budworth as the author of this article on Ashley?

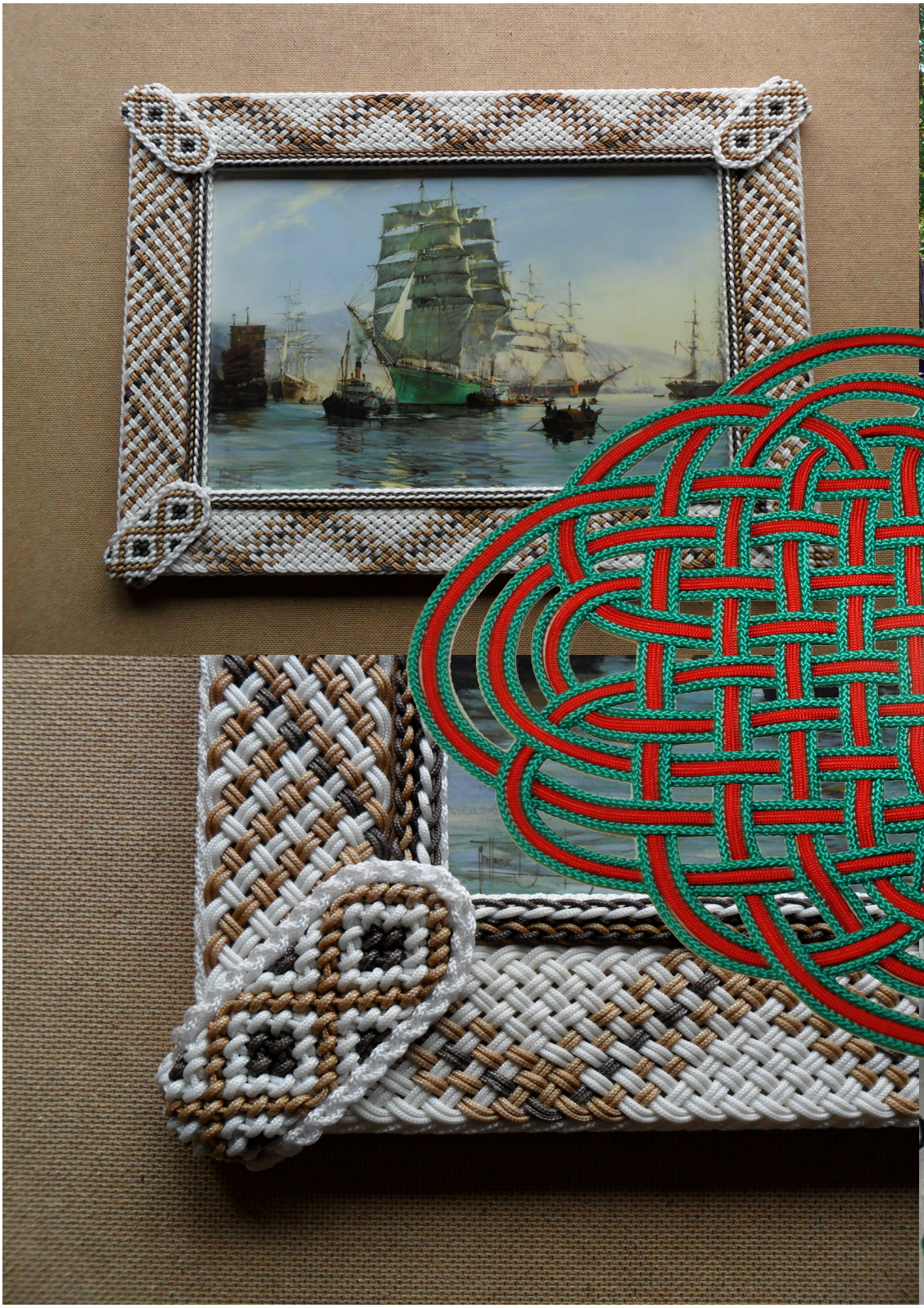
2: Was a profile of Cyrus L. Day ever published in KM? According to the index included with the recent digital distribution, it appears not, at least by the time KM30 rolled off the presses.

My inquiries with the University of Delaware for additional materials and biographical information have not been fruitful. The only solid information on him I've been able to collect is from his obituary in the New York Times (1968-07-10, p.40), and a brief passage in History and Science of Knots. Any additional information on Day or suggestions for possible sources would be appreciated.

Thanks for your time.

Regards,

David Fred
Traverse City, MI, US
[***Ed - Are any of our readers able to help with this inquiry?***]



SOLENT BRANCH
SOLENT BRANCH
BADGER
INTERNATIONAL GUILD OF KNOT TYERS

Regarding the frame on center pages:

Here is a frame I finished recently. It measures 50cm. X 37cm.(approx.) finished. I used mainly 2m.m. VB cord in white, dark brown and tan. The outer edge is 9-strand French Sennit (G&H) and the inner edge is simple 3-strand plait. The horizontal sections are from "Interesting Plaits and Flat Braids" (p 226, Emerald Pattern) and the vertical sections are from the same book (p 228, Striped Pyramid Design). I find the best way to get these wide flat sennits tight and neat is to work them on a cork board using plenty of pins and keeping strictly to perimeter guidelines which keeps the edges straight. At the inner edges of these sennits, all the way round, are two sections of ABOK#3003 laid slightly overlapping to give a different effect. Finally, the corner pieces are sections of half- hitching (upside-down macrame?) edged with 4-strand Square Sennit. The print is " Thermopylae Leaving Foochow" by Montague Dawson.

Regards,
Joe Bennett.

The center knot is a knot on a New Year's letter from Zittau in Germany, dating from 1820., in the form of a lover's "Valentine" made by your editor
The right side, center pages, is Ken Yalden with his suggested pieces from the article "Tips and Suggestions When Setting Up Shows." on page 30

IGKT HALF-YEARLY MEETING AT THE MARINMUSEUM, KARLSKRONA, SWEDEN, 8-10TH OCTOBER 2010

from our UK stringer
Meeting Organiser: Nisse Gustavsson, IGKT, Sweden

The sun shone in a clear blue sky over the Marinmuseum, in the historic naval town of Karlskrona, which provided the beautiful setting for the Guild's first meeting to be held in Sweden. Karlskrona, with its fascinating naval history and buildings, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the few days we had there were not nearly long enough to explore it all. About 50 IGKT members from Sweden, France, Germany, Holland and the United Kingdom attended. The Director of the Museum, Richard Bauer, made the Guild very welcome indeed and organised a generous subsidy of the meeting. We had a spacious conference room and splendid food – typical Swedish delicacies of herring, roast meats, dumplings, potato pancakes and delicious salads.

[*Photographs on page 20 - Ed*]

Our excellent host – and the organiser of the whole event – was Nisse Gustavsson, the Museum's rigger. Nisse took us on board the Jarramas, a 30-metre, 3-master, built in 1900 and saved by the town and Museum in Karslkrona for restoration. Nisse's rigging expertise, learned from an earlier Karlskrona expert, is now being passed on to his young apprentice, Per. The restoration of Jarramas will provide years of rigging work and much knowledge will be preserved, documented and passed on. Nisse also showed us the Museum's enviable workshops, in another historical naval building with a sloping floor and water-collecting roof: excellent 17th Century design features for hauling boats and providing water on the rocky island. Most of us also took the opportunity to explore the very well interpreted and varied collections of the excellent Marinmuseum,

For many of us, the highlight was a visit, especially organised for IGKT members, to an astonishing building: a 300 metres (yes, metres!) long Rope Walk, built in the 1690s, still very much in its original condition and containing many early artefacts, some of which were demonstrated to us – and, indeed, some of us tried out the rope-making machinery. Our coach was parked alongside one of the oldest dry-docks in the world, cut into the rock and, with no tides to help, originally emptied by a team of 200 sailors with buckets. We much appreciated the privilege of being cleared to enter the naval base to see these sights.

With no formal business to be carried out, much of the time was devoted to swapping ideas about knotty matters, enjoying the good company, wonderful food and great live music (provided at the Saturday night dinner, at which the dancing skills of some well-known knotters impressed us all!) There were displays of rope work from many members. From Swedish member, Christopher Åstrőm, I learned about a paper on the mathematics (by Christoffer's engineer brother, Alexander) of a Celtic knot design, carved on the Hilton of Cadboll stone, in the National Musuem of Scotland. Christoffer had on display a 1.5 meter diameter rope he had made from the design. We hope to bring you at least an abstract of Alexander's paper in a later KM issue.

Our Sunday afternoon timetable, organised by Nisse, was billed as, "Workshops: Sunday Fun for Families with Children." It was all hands to the decks to teach children reef bows for shoes, with the extra tuck for slippery laces, as well as the figure of eight knot in two languages. The session was well-attended and the children keen to learn. It was a good little workshop and just shows what can be done at meetings, with some forethought.

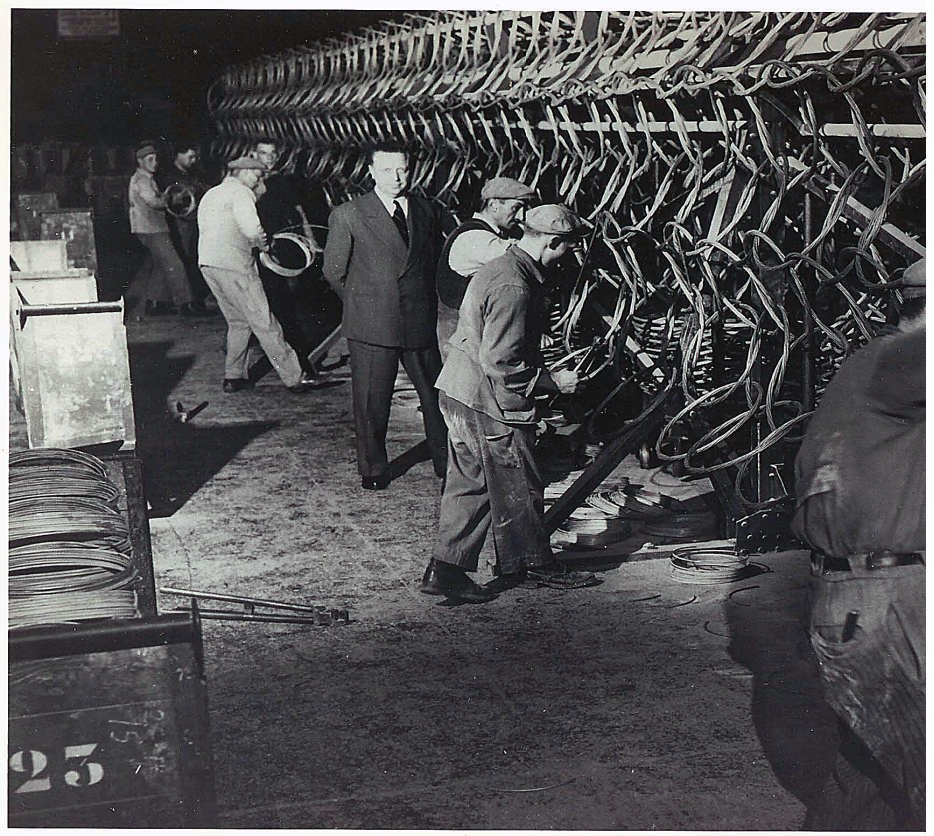
It is impossible for us to thank Nisse adequately for his single-handed organisation of this very happy meeting. He made us all immensely welcome and nothing was too difficult for him to arrange. We all took away very good memories of Sweden and our fellow IGKT members there.

Rigging Grommets as Nets

I thought this photogragh may be of some interest, It shows riggers in HM Boom Defence Depot Rosyth , Scotland making Anti Torpedo and Submarine nets circa 1950. The grommets are formed from lengths of pre-formed high tensile steel which can be seen in the bottom left of the pic.

[***Ed - the noted area of the photograph is visible as a series of rings between boxes - any ideas on how these were made - Alf gave the answer already - what's your guess?***]

Yours Aye.. Alf Mumberson



The Great British Knot Experiment

as re-told by Richard Hopkins

Recently I found out about an attempt to recruit school science clubs to carry out an experiment to attempt to determine if an idea, by Robert Matthews of Aston University in England, is in fact correct. The idea was to get a lot of schools to participate so that sufficient data could be collected to give validity to the results.

As we all know, cordage has a habit of forming knots in itself when left to its own devices. As Jerome K Jerome in his book "***Three Men In A Boat***" put it "There is something very strange and unaccountable about a tow-line. You roll it up with as much patience and care as you would take to fold up a new pair of trousers, and five minutes afterwards, when you pick it up, it is one ghastly, soul-revolting tangle".

Mathematicians get excited about the forms these knots adopt and topologists have spent much effort to explain some of the variations. To a topologist a knot is not a knot unless the ends are joined. That's because if they weren't, it would be possible to pull it apart and thus change it by deforming it – violating the key rule of topology. So strictly speaking, knot theorists don't deal with knots in the everyday sense of the term that IGKT understands.

That's not to say mathematicians have nothing to say about "real" knots with loose ends: by using different branches of maths (notably self-avoiding walk theory), they've been able to come up with a few proofs of the properties of "real" knots, and it's these we'll be drawing on for the Great British Knot Experiment.

One thing we all know about unwanted knots is that, the longer a piece of rope is, the more likely it is to end up with a knot in it. In 1988, mathematicians De Witt Sumners and Stu Whittington actually managed to prove this. To do it, they used a branch of mathematics

known as self-avoiding walk theory (which, unlike knot theory, is able to cope with knots forming in open-ended lengths of rope). Using this theory, they were even able to find the law governing the probability of a cord remaining knot-free falls as the length increases. In other words, the longer a cord is, the more likely it will get tangled into knots.

Robert Matthews suggests that, if the ends of a cord are joined (knotted together) into a loop, this effectively reduces the length of the cord and therefore the chance of it getting knotted. Also by getting rid of the loose ends there is less chance of them getting into mischief and forming their own knots.

If the Loop Conjecture is correct, then a carelessly-handled piece of rope, cord or flex should be less likely to end up knotted if it's first turned into a loop.

So how can we test this ? Simply by comparing the chances of open-ended cord becoming knotted with those of the same piece of cord after its ends have been joined into a loop, and that is what the Great British Knot Experiment is all about.:

1. Prepare at least four different lengths of string, cord or flex (lengths between 50 cm and 2 to 3 metres long should be fine);

2. Take the shortest length, gather it into your hands and randomly jumble it for 10 seconds, using your fingers to ensure the cord is well-agitated within the space between your hands;

3. Then let the cord fall onto a table. Now locate the two free ends and carefully tease them apart, and see if at least one knot has been formed. Record whether the cord was knotted, or knot-free;

4. Repeat at least 20 times for each length, and calculate the proportion of trials in which the cord becomes knotted. This is an estimate of the probability of a cord of that length becoming knotted after being randomly jumbled;

5. Repeat for each of the different lengths. The results will show how the probability of an open-ended cord becoming knotted changes with increasing length.

That's the first part of the experiment. To put the conjecture to the test, we must now repeat steps (1) to (5) with each of the original cords turned into loops by joining their free ends:

1. As before, jumble each looped piece of cord for 10 seconds, using your fingers to ensure the cord is well-agitated within the space between your hands.
2. Let the cord fall onto a table. Now locate the point at which the cord has been joined, and carefully lift the cord, so it hangs down. Now shake the looped cord and gently pull on its lowest point, to eliminate any knot-free tangles. Record whether the looped cord was knotted, or knot-free.
3. Repeat at least 20 times, as for the open-ended lengths, and calculate the proportion of trials in which the looped cord became knotted. This is an estimate of the probability of a looped cord, of that length, becoming knotted after being randomly jumbled;
4. Repeat for each of the different lengths of cord in their looped form. The results will show how the probability of a looped cord becoming knotted changes with increasing length.

If the conjecture is correct, the probability of a given length of cord becoming knotted, after random jumbling, will be lower for the cord in its looped state.
The organisers realize that the tendency of a cord to tangle may also depend on other factors such as thickness and stiffness. Therefore, to find out the relative importance of both stiffness and thickness on knotting probability, we need to carry out two different sets of experiments.

For the effect of stiffness: perform the Great British Knot Experimentwith cords of identical thickness but different Young's Modulus (that is, material).

For the effect of thickness: perform the Great British Knot Experiment with cords made from identical material – and thus Young's Modulus - but different thickness.

Although many schools expressed an interest in participating in TG-BKE not very many have so far submitted results.

The results are still under analysis, but to date they appear to confirm that the probability of knots forming in randomly jumbled string follows the predictions of the Sumners-Whittington theorem. They also appear to confirm the Loop Conjecture proposed by Robert Matthews, according to which, joining up the two ends of a piece of string, flex, etc., radically reduces the risk of knots forming within it.

Anyone wishing to find out more about the experiment should visit the website from which I took most of the above article
http://www.thegreatbritishknotexperiment.net/
where they will find some of the mathematics and a more comprehensive explanation of the ideas behind the experiment.
Robert Matthews' technical paper on the spontaneous knotting problem is also to be found there, together with the information that his interest stems from frustration at untangling his iPod headphone cords and an interest in Murphy's Law (for which he won an IgNobel prize in 1996).
By Googling "The Great British Knot Experiment" one can also find sites showing video of tangling attempts.

Some Tips and suggestions for IGKT members when setting up Shows.

By Ken Yalden

I must emphasise that these are just my ideas that I have picked up over the time that the IGKT have been showing Knot Tying at public events. My first public display of knot craft was in 1987; however, I base these notes on the more recent shows where I like to think we have improved on what we do and how we display. The following list of notes will be better read in conjunction with the attached pictures [***See center spread on right side - Ed***].

Description. To help the event organiser better understand what we get up to, I have found descriptive words such as 'A Display and Demonstration of Knot craft by the IGKT' as a far easier way to enlighten, rather than just 'Knot Tying'.
Also this gives ready words that can then be put into the printed programme.

The Site. Over the years I have attended many events, Tall Ships, Festivals of the sea, large Country and County Shows, sometimes as a joint exhibitor as well as sometimes in a craft tent with other craft workers (these are a bit inhibiting) but other times in a standalone stand or site, covered with a tent provided by an IGKT member. My first show experience was alone with a single pasting table and no overhead cover. I can recommend shows are better to attend for both the public and members when under a cover of some kind [to protect] from rain or the sun's heat.

Fees. During my time on the IGKT Council it was the policy not to pay exhibitor or attendance fees for shows; instead we used words such as: - On this occasion we shall waive our fees, as an Educational Charity we do not make a profit. However, should you wish to contribute towards the materials and handouts available to the public, which in turn aids to [make] a better display for your show, this will be greatly appreciated.

Signs, Notices and Display: - I have found the public stay longer and ask more questions if the display is well labelled, even simple notices such as 'Turks Head' or 'Monkeys Fist' because you know what they are but the viewing public may not and are often too embarrassed to show their lack of knowledge even if interested. As an International Guild it also helps to have some translations at the International meetings, or six knot challenge for instance.

As for display, keep it tidy and uncluttered and seats on the stand area should be kept to the back or side NOT in front of your display hence putting up a barrier. We have found that sat on a high stool you are at eyelevel with the passing public and therefore better [able] to engage with them, rather than the camping chairs often seen at craft shows where the stall holder appears to crouch behind the table out of sight. Also food and drink should not be part of your display.

Young Folk: - Over the last year or so, I have been perfecting how to teach young folk how to tie their shoe laces with the aid of a large shoe template. I keep it simple and only show the Reef Bow. Many Mums have never seen it tied this way and some Dads get impatient as it dents their pride and they will make comments such as "you do not need laces today" but they do. So aim to make Mum's life easier, you will find it is mainly a boy thing, but the size of the smile on their face because they have gained another skill makes it worth while, plus they do need this skill for their football boots if nothing else. A sign of "Shoe Laces - Master classes for small folk" will bring them in. On completion of training I give them half a metre of small line as their own shoe lace, with the promise that they will show Mum before they go to bed, and again in the morning to show they did not forget overnight. Also recently I have had three requests for 'Bowtie tying' from the bigger boys, hence I have a sign for 'Bowties for Discerning Gents' and a Bowtie in my box.

Six Knot Callange: - Over the years this has proved to be a good focal point to gather the interest of the passing public. Not so much the timed race against the clock, but the fact that the ropes are on a jackstay at a natural level, and also there is a picture of the knot that they can follow. The public may in fact choose to tie just one or indeed all of the knots, but they go away satisfied on having achieved something. Do not worry if they cannot remember the six, and the sight of a stop watch can make them run, just let them enjoy tying knots. The Flash Harry's will step up to the mark; the rest is up to the Knot Master who is running the rig.

Accommodation: - With large shows and events comes the problem of accommodation for members attending the duration of the show, hotels and B&B are often booked up months in advance. At previous shows, it has been local contacts that have saved both the day and the cost in having done the research in advance. It has been known for up to 7 Knot Tyers plus sleeping bags to be on any flat surface in their home, and other times good links with scouts or sea cadets who offer Spartan but welcome sleeping spots. Researched list of hotels, B&B's and camp sites plus prices, is always useful to those not knowing the area.

Site Access: - Many shows restrict the movement on site of vehicles from early morning, and on occasions car parking costs can be high, so shared transport has to be a good option were possible. Also car parks can be some distance and so a flat pack sack-truck can be a worthwhile mode of transport. For instance, when the afternoon shift of Knot Tyers are coming on site with their ropes, books and tools together with slow moving viewing public obstructing the pathways, not easy with arms full of boxes. Think ahead on this one, a flat pack sack-truck is a far more practical Birthday/ Christmas present for a' boy' than a pair of socks or tie you will never wear; get your bids in early.

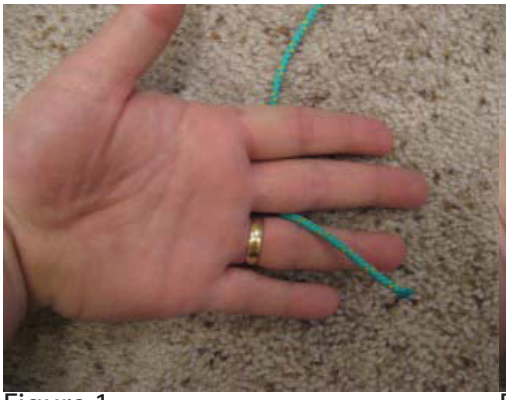


Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3

Figure 4

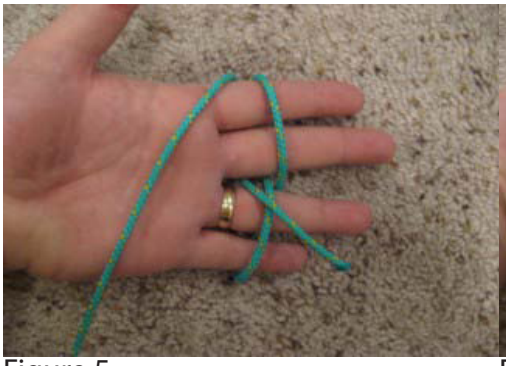


Figure 5

Figure 6

Under the 2 upper fingers (pointing and middle - Fig 1), then wrap down over with upper cord and under lower two fingers (ring and little or pinky - Fig 2), wrap up over lower fingers and under upper fingers (forms figure of eight - Fig 3), turn hand over and cross over upper two fingers (Fig 4), turn hand back and circle two upper fingers as Figures 5 & 6.

Figure 7

Figure 8

Figure 9

Figure 11

Figure 12

Figure 13

Figure 15

Figure 16

Figure 17

Follow the photographs from Fig 7 - 21, forming each TH Knot on each pair of fingers alternately, then slide off onto the finished object pair (or triple).

Figure 9

Figure 10

Figure 13

Figure 14

Figure 17

Figure 18

How I Did It
Loop With Three Ends

by Theo Slijkerman

Middle the larger of two lines to make a bight.

Make with the other line five to six wrapping turns down and [insert it] up inside.

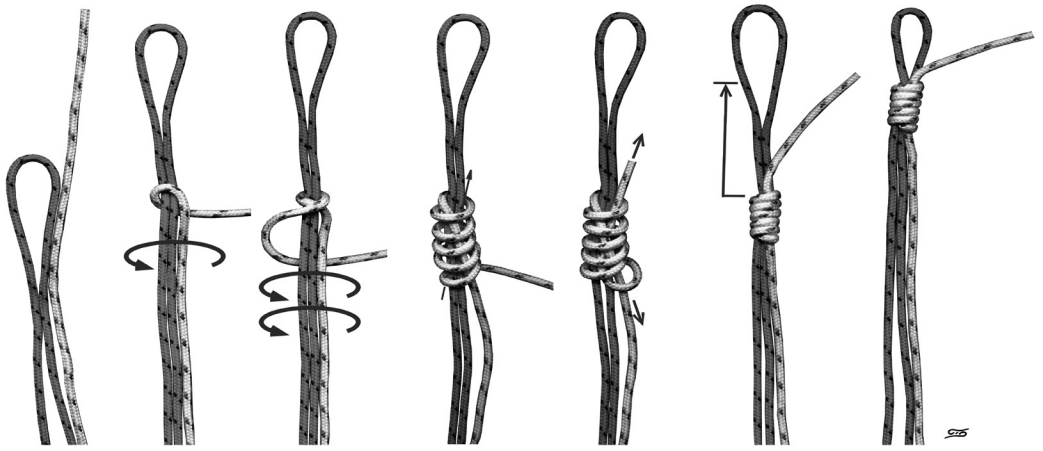
Tighten the knot.

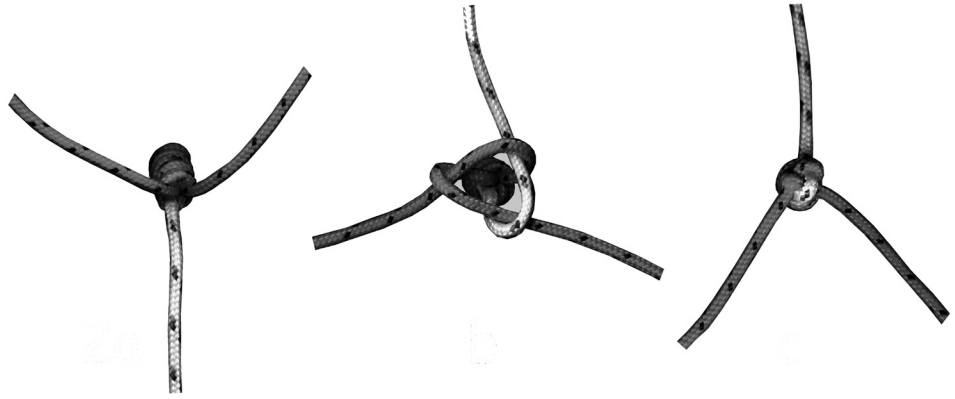
Slide the knot up to make the loop.

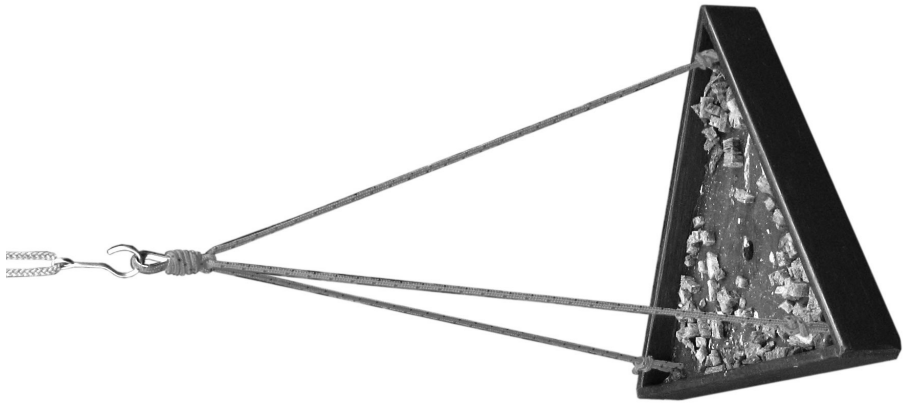
Fix the sliding knot with a crown knot below.

The result is seen as a good-looking loop with three ends.
It's easy to insert a thimble in the loop.

Help the birds this winter with a hanging triangular bird table.




2a
b
c



How I Did It
Diamond Knot Variants

by John Heselton

Of all the multi-strand knots, the Diamond Knot surely qualifies as the one which is the most prolific in the number of its variants. The 'standard' Diamond Knot is one in which each strand is led over its neighbour and then under its neighbour's neighbour. If one then continues to tuck the strands, it becomes apparent that the number of variants is some exponent of the number of strands involved.

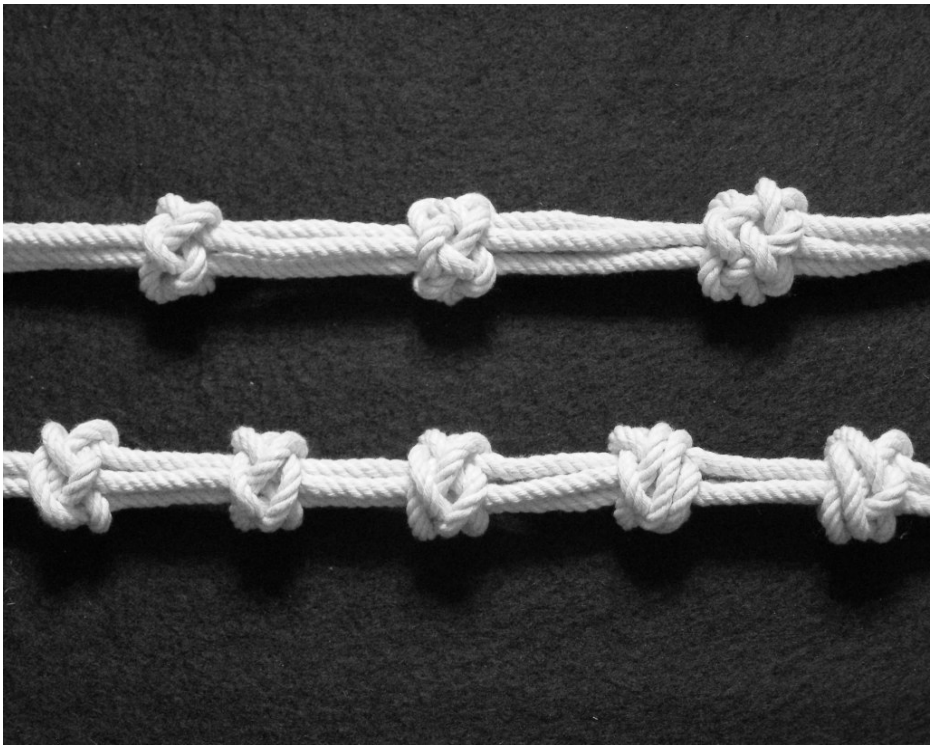
Consider the three-strand Diamond Knot. If we confine our tucking to one in which each 'over' is followed by an 'under' (or vice versa), then we have two possibilities: over-under and under-over-under (under-under-under becomes a Mathew Walker and is thus no longer a Diamond Knot). Expanding our tucking to include two 'overs', or two 'unders', we get over-over-under and over-under-under. The former is called a Diamond Sinnet Knot by Clifford Ashley, shown as a six-strand knot ABOK #757. As the last tuck in a Diamond Knot must be an 'under', no matter what the series of prior tucks, in my opinion it is a Diamond Knot, which, given Ashley's definition of a Sinnet Knot, begs the question that all Diamond Knots must therefore be Sinnet Knots.

The photograph shows the progression, given four strands. In the upper series, 'standard' tucking is used (each 'over' is followd by an 'under', or vice versa). From left to right we have the 'standard' Diamond Knot, over-under, forming what I call a two-level knot (counting the bights from bottom to top), then an under-over-under knot, forming a three-level knot and finally an over-under-over-under, forming a four-level knot and probably the prettiest one.

The series of knots below shows knots which are obtained when duplicate tucks are allowed. From left to right they are: over-over-under, over-under-under, over-over-under-under, over-under-under-under and the so-called Diamond Sinner Knot, over-over-over-under. There are, of course, many other variants and if one uses five or more strands, they become extremely numerous. Differentiating between some of them is not easy and can only be done by following the strands and noting their relation to the other strands. Not all are attractive. For four or more strands and the more complicated tucking, I recommend that the strands be stopped to the stem before tying, as in ABOK #740. Note that all these knots [shown] confine themselves to a maximum of one circuit. Many more variants become possible if more than one circuit is employed.

Regards,

John Heselton.



From the Editor's Blotter

The keen observers among you will have noticed something a little different about this issue (apart from it being late!). There is a wide variety of subjects as usual, but the arrangement is slightly different. Some standard placements have moved or been consolidated, some are the same and there is much more color! This greater use of color comes with a price tag - it is more expensive to print in color than in black and white, particularly when printing on different sides of multiple sheets. Our original magazine was in black and white on photocopied paper, with many hand-drawn inserts and photocopied photographs. With digital manipulation it has become easier in some respects and much, much more complex in other respects.

I made a promise to improve your magazine, but I have no wish to increase costs unless it meets with your approval. I therefore need your opinions (send to knottingmatters@igkt.net or by mail to my home address) as to this current revision and the inclusion of color. Do you want more color included, do you want a larger format, do you want more written articles or more articles with plenty of photographs or drawings? None of these are mutually exclusive options, so let me know, please!

Storage of the electronic media has become commonplace, but there is a drawback and that is the possibility of loss of electronic data. Loss of electronic data was what has made this issue late (the hard drive was corrupted along with hundreds of hours of the editor's photographic and text editing). Measures are in place now to back up in multiple locations, including off-site, to ensure continuity. If I have not included your piece in this issue - watch for the next issue and you will likely see it there, with my full apologies.

Lindsey Philpott

IGKT Goes Scouting

The 2011 IGKT AGM and Knot Tying Weekend will be held from 6th to 8th May at Rough Close, Coventry Scouts campsite and activity centre located in the heart of England. The 43 acre site of fields and woodland is located just outside Coventry and close to major road and rail links, and Birmingham International Airport.

For members or their partners wishing to do a little sight-seeing in the area, Coventry is famous for Lady Godiva, its Cathedral and an excellent motor museum. At nearby Birmingham, we have Cadbury's World, the National Sea Life Centre, NEC/NIA and much more.
The weekend will consist of many of the Guild favourites, workshops, presentations, show and tell and the knot-tyers supper as well as the main business of the AGM. We hope those members who are also Scouts will be proud to show their Scout uniform.

Those wishing to camp or bunk, accommodation will be provided in the Norton Cabin and adjoining camping field. There is also space for a few caravans or camper vans. For those who don't wish to camp, there are a number of B&B's and hotels in the area, and details of these will be sent out with the meeting details. We also have use of two other buildings to accommodate the Guild's meeting during the weekend, the George Sheppard Cabin (L) and the Maclean Centre (R).

www.roughclose.org.uk

Hello KitM Knotheads!

Special thanks to John Waidner for bringing out his 6-strand rope machine and for the insight into how to use it. We had fun experimenting with various materials. I am anxious to see/try the saran wrap. It was also nice to meet Bob and Penny Galley of Wabash Indiana (See photo on pg 23 of Sept 2010 KM). Bob is an avid history buff and has researched the history and evolution of rope back to the ice age. Bob shared some insight related to ropemaking over the years. He has also agreed to bring some of his historic equipment and share some of the past with us at an upcoming meeting.

With today's meeting, we have completed our first full year as an operating Chapter of the North American Branch of the IGKT. I am pleased to share a few statistics from that year:
Meeting Frequency - Quarterly (4 meetings during 2010).
Attendance Count - We have averaged 11 attending per meeting and have had a minimum of 7 at each of the 4 meetings.
Member Attendance - 2 Members have never missed a meeting and 3 have only missed 1 meeting.
Coverage Area - We have regularly had attendees from Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky and Ohio. We have seen attendees from Maryland and California as well.
Exposure - In addition to listings on various knotting web sites and social media, we have been written up in both the IGKT Knotting Matters and the NAB Inter-Knot

Knot a bad first year. I am hopeful that we can continue these successes and build upon them as we move into 2011 (year 2). In addition to programs built around rope making, ropewalk history and a couple special project techniques, I am hopeful that we can pull together some sort of Chapter web site (or Blog) and newsletter format. Any volunteers?? I will communicate the meeting schedule for 2011 as soon as we can get it set. Initially, I would anticipate our next meeting being the last Sunday of February or First [Sunday] of March.

To close out our inaugural year, let me say thank you to all of you for your part in our success. whether you have been a meeting contributor or an attendee, you have been an important part of this year. I hope you and your families have a happy and healthy holiday season and Merry Christmas as we prepare to celebrate another new year.

See you all in 2011.

Yours in Knotting,
Rusty Helms - President,
Knot in the Middle Chapter, North American Branch, IGKT

Report of the meeting of the East Anglian Branch held 18th of September 2010

Fourteen of us, including two guests, met at our usual place, the Windmill Room of the Abbots Hall Primary School, Danescourt Avenue, Stowmarket in Suffolk.

Our theme for the day was "ROPE WORKS". We like to have themes that can be interpreted in many ways, thus giving everyone, whatever their skill or interest, a chance to contribute a little something to our informal gathering. That certainly happened, with rope at work in a "Handy Billy" tackle, and rope on its own doing much the same as a Lorry Driver's Dolly or Gate, aka the Wagoner's Hitch or Harvester's Hitch, which stimulated further variations. There was also a large amount of work with rope yarns to make a sennit mat, rope worked to snugly stow a sail using Swedish Looping, a rope was shown to be able to be used as "Knot Board" and we all had a go at unlaying rope into its yarns and relaying those yarns into smaller ropes. A ladder made completely of rope proved well to hang over the side of a boat and Tom Fool's Knot worked to keep grandchildren quiet. We also were shown Tuffy Turner's special Rhubarb Hitch and the Farrimond Friction Hitch was demonstrated and recommended, (perhaps these were our usual "favourite knots", spot but they were also rope at work). [***Ed - maybe Tuffy woudl consider letting the rest of us see his Rhubarb Hitch?***]

Tuffy Turner kept us all in order, Maureen Southgate produced tea and coffee and we agreed to meet again on the 19th of March at 1pm for a 1.30pm start in the Windmill Room, Abbots Hall Primary School, Danescourt Ave, Stowmarket, Suffolk, when our main theme will be "LOOPY LOOPS", giving all great scope to be able to contribute something. Should you be able to join us you would be most welcome (perhaps you should plan a visit to East Anglia and join us).

For more information contact:-

Des Pawson 01473 690 090
des@despawson.com

Solent Branch Meeting

I was not able to attend the August meeting and as a consequent no report was sent; however, I was able to attend the October meeting on the 12th, and a most interesting meeting it turned out to be. Two of our members, Ken Yalden and Gordon Perry, did not attend as they were at the Karlskrona venue and no doubt 'swanning' around in Sweden. I am sure that they will have plenty to tell us on their return home.

We began with our usual 'homework'. It was the 'Fiodor' knot, sometimes known as the 'Theodor' knot after President Theodor Roosevelt, who supposedly witnessed it being tied by some Mexicans. We then moved on to an interesting few minutes when Bob Pearce gave a short talk on 'The French Cowboy'. It seems that he once had to talk to some French horsemen who were into the 'Wild West', and we had a most amusing display of 'Lariat twirling'.

After our coffee and biscuit break, yours truly gave a short talk on 'Bowlines'. It is not generally known, but there are about 80-85 different variations of the Bowline, and to complicate the situation even more, they all are known by over 250 different names. Needless to say I only touched on the subject and showed ten examples, and talked about their twenty different names. It turned out to be just enough without 'swamping' the brain with too much detail, and it was well past 2200 and they all had beds to go to, so we tidied up our mess and headed for home.

Our next meeting is in December, just before Christmas. It is bound to have a Festive theme, so I'll tell you all about it in the New Year.

Terry Meaden

West Yorkshire Branch by David Pearson

We have had quite a busy year with five canal and waterways festivals one museum [event] and three charity rope making events. Most of these have been one day events and staffed by various numbers of staff, anything from one to ten members. Skipton Waterways Festival continues to be a favourite with all of us. This year was our second visit to Strawberry Island boat club and it seems that this could become a regular booking.

We had a return visit to Golcar Folk Museum after ten years, here we dressed up in Victorian dress and were delighted to find that the bakers had remembered how to bake knotted bread. The charity rope-making is a relatively new type of event for us. We were asked by our local nature reserve to demonstrate rope making. We did this and finished up with a lot of short lengths of rope. The general public had been very interested so we came up with the idea for subsequent events to "Make your own skipping rope length. " We charged a pound and gave the money to the charity. What a job we had made for ourselves. T his year we made seventy ropes in five hours! Rope-making certainly interests the public and gives an interactive event.

Our outdoor events are finished for the year and we just have our branch meeting in November.

Our next years branch meetings are on the 20th March and 20th November 2011.

Knotting Diary and Calendar

Alaskan Branch
Every Wed. evening 6:30 to 8:00
Anchorage Senior Center
1300 E 19th Avenue, Anchorage
Contact Mike Livingstone
Tel: (1) 907/929-7888

East Anglian Branch
Contact: Des Pawson
Tel: +44(0) 1473 690 090
e-mail: des@despawson.com

French Branch
Contact Graham Maclachlan
www.igktfrance.com

German Branch
Contact: Peter Willems
IGKT Deutsche Sektion e.V.
c/o Schifffahrtsmuseum
Schiffbruecke 39
24939 Flensburg, Germany
Telephone: xx49 173 46 34 679
Email: info@knotengilde.de

Midlands Branch
The Old Swan, Netherton
Contact: Bruce Turley
Tel: 0121 453 4124

Northwest Branch
Contact: Dave Walker
Tel: 01244 682 117

Netherlands
Every last Saturday (except Dec.)
De Hoop, Rotterdam
Contact: Jan Hoefnagel
Tel: 078 614 6002

NAB - Mid-Atlantic Region
Contact: Michael Pollock
See handbook for details

NAB - Knot in the Middle
Contact: Rusty Helms
See Handbook for details

Pacific Americas Branch
Second Tuesday of each month
Los Angeles Maritime Institute
San Pedro, California
Contact: Jimmy Williams
Tel: (1) 310/679-6864
e-mail: igktpab@gmail.com

Solent Branch
Second Tues. of even-number months
Fareham Sailing and Motor Boat Club
Fareham, Hants, UK
Contact: Ken Yalden
Tel: +44(0) 23 9225 9280

Surrey Branch
Meetings are held at Guildford District Scout Centre, Nightingale Road, Guildford, starting at 20:00 hrs. Please phone for more details
Contact: Peter Goldstone
Tel: +44(0) 1483 763 054

Sweden
Contact: Olof Nystrom Tel: 08 265 065
Pille Repmakar'n Tel: 08 6110144

West Country Knotters
Last Sat. of odd months @13:00 hrs
Tytherington, Nr. Bristol
Contact: Richard Hopkins
Tel: 0117 986 7146

West Yorkshire Branch
Contact: David Pearson
Tel: 0113 257 2689

Back Cover:
Top is a French billiard ball covered with two passes of 2 mm cord 12 m in length and 456 faces made by Claude Hochet
Bottom is ropemaster Gordon Perry passing on knowledge, and the thrill of making your own rope, to some young folks.